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15 November 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

[Redacted box]

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State Dept., JCS reviews completed

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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Heavy fighting flared again yesterday west of the Plei Me special forces camp in Pleiku Province when elements of the US First Cavalry Division established contact with an enemy main force unit of estimated battalion strength during the afternoon hours. Fighting is reportedly continuing, and US reinforcements have been dispatched to the scene.

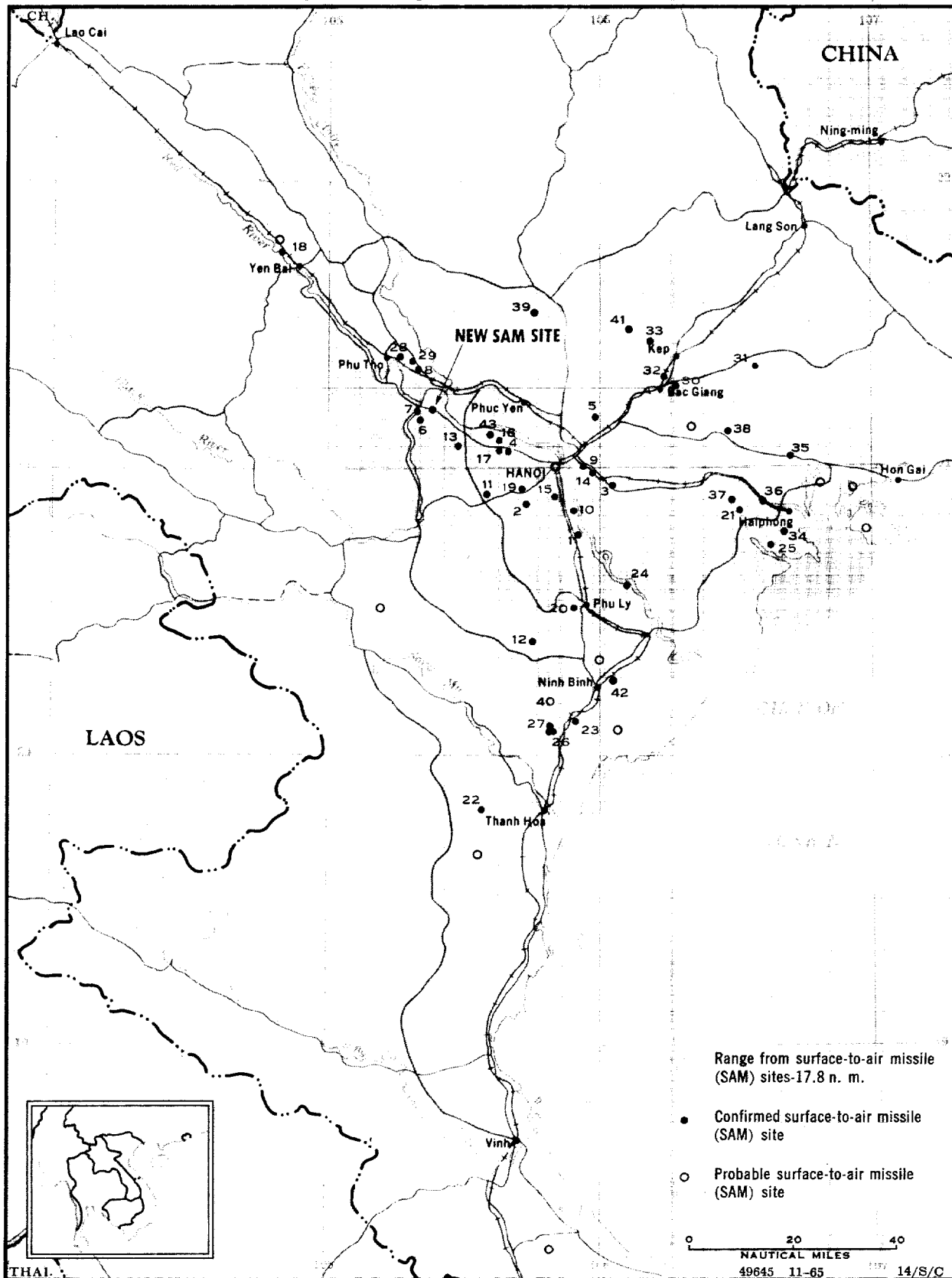
Initial reports list by body count 103 enemy forces killed in action, and an additional 370 possibly killed. US losses total three killed and 49 wounded. Two US helicopters and one Skyraider aircraft have also been shot down in the vicinity of the fighting. The helicopter crews were recovered safely, but the fighter pilot is presumed dead.

Elsewhere, two jet aircraft on 13 November bombed the Ben Hai river bridge in the demilitarized zone dividing North and South Vietnam. One span of the bridge and several buildings on both sides of the river were apparently damaged. On the South Vietnamese side, one policeman was killed, and another policeman and several civilians were wounded. US military officials in Saigon have reported that preliminary evidence points to the involvement of US aircraft, but that a full investigation has not yet been completed. The same bridge and adjacent areas were inadvertently bombed by US aircraft in September.

[The Political Situation in South Vietnam: Leaders of the Catholic community in the Saigon area have recently expressed growing dissatisfaction with the current military government, but plan no outright challenge for the time being.]

(continued)

NORTH VIETNAM: SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SITES



[After presenting Chief of State General Thieu on 11 November with a list of five specific complaints, Catholic leaders later told US Embassy officials that they would not publish their grievances at this time, but would give the government time to provide them with some measure of satisfaction. According to the embassy, however, the implication was clear that they would consider other forms of action should the government refuse to go at least part way. An earlier communiqué published by the Catholic community which contained some sharply worded criticism of the government was also later characterized by Catholic leaders as a warning rather than a deliberate challenge.]

[Military Developments in North Vietnam: A new SAM site was detected in high-altitude drone photography [redacted] about 30 miles northwest of Hanoi. The site did not appear occupied at the time it was photographed. Another suspect SAM installation was seen in low-level photography of the same general area [redacted] However, subsequent analysis revealed that this facility was occupied with dummy missiles.]

Enemy ground fire downed a US Navy A4E (Skyhawk) and a marine helicopter attempting to recover the A4E pilot on the night of 12/13 November about 30 miles north of the demilitarized zone. The helicopter crew has been rescued and search operations are continuing for the Navy pilot.

Indonesia: The army is disturbed over President Sukarno's recent political counterattacks, and may be planning a direct confrontation with him.

[redacted] the army leadership now intends to insist that Sukarno delay no further in banning the PKI. The army is also said to be planning a complete reorganization of the cabinet and the Supreme Operations Command (KOTI) which will remove Sukarno's "yes men." On 13 November army commander Major General Suharto announced that KOTI would soon be overhauled to improve its efficiency.

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In the light of Sukarno's recent assertion of authority, however, the army probably will not be able fully to carry out these plans. [The US Embassy in Djakarta comments that the present situation is likely to devolve into a long-drawn-out struggle for power.]

Sukarno continues to put off his long-awaited "political solution" in the hope that anti-Communist feeling will subside and the unusual unity now existing among Indonesia's non-Communist elements will disintegrate. A cabinet minister close to Sukarno told US Ambassador Green on 13 November that Sukarno felt that most PKI members were loyal Indonesians not involved in the 30 September movement. He added that Sukarno would not be stampeded into accusations against broad categories of persons.

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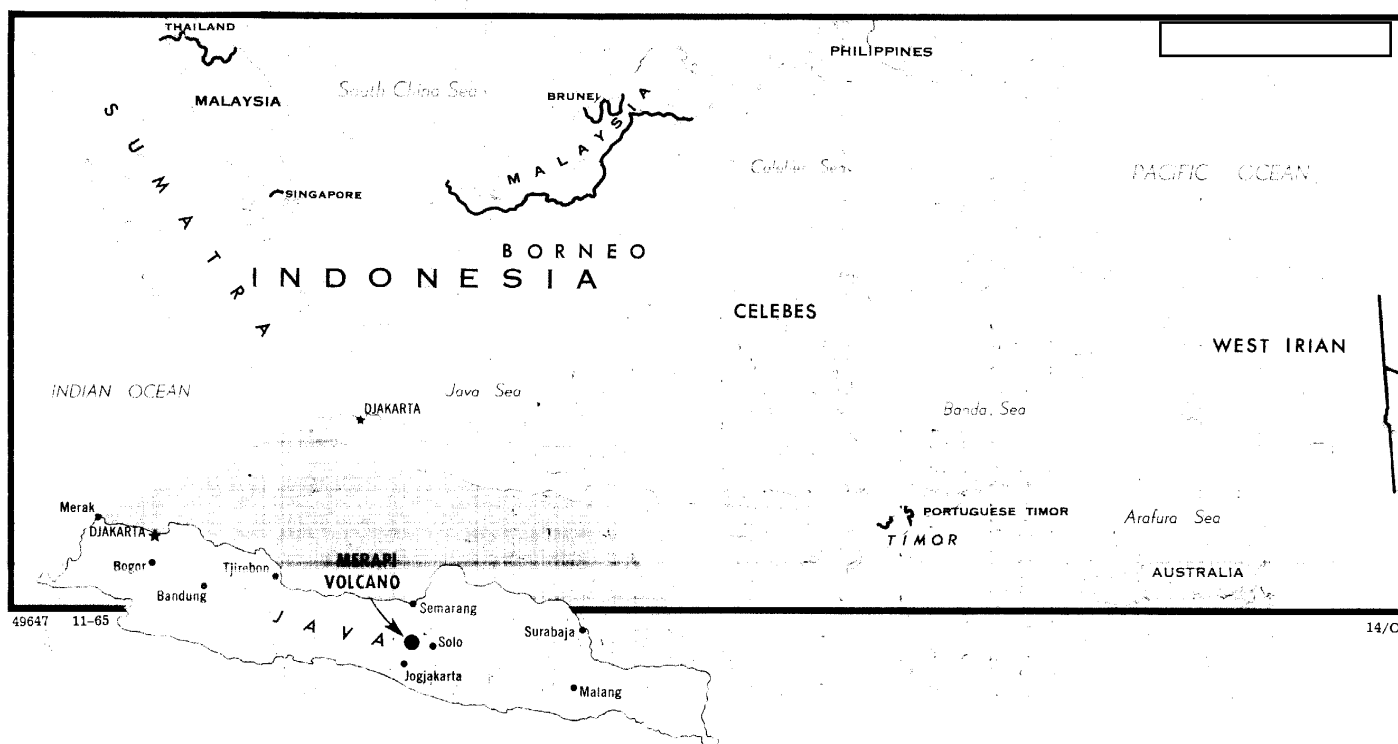
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15 Nov 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map



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Rhodesia: [African pressures are mounting for stiffer measures, including military intervention, to overthrow the rebellious white regime.]

[Calls have been issued from many African capitals for the use of military force, preferably by the UK but otherwise under United Nations or Organization of African Unity (OAU) auspices.]

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[The OAU has no capability to launch action against the Rhodesian armed forces.]

[At the UN Security Council, efforts are being made to tone down an African-sponsored resolution demanding that the Council invoke a full array of penalties, including the use of force if necessary.]

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[Zambia's President Kaunda, pressured by leading cabinet ministers, is seriously considering a total trade boycott. Rhodesia's exports to Zambia amounted to \$86 million in 1964--about one fourth of Rhodesia's total export earnings. So far Zambia's sanctions have been confined to cancellation of preferences on imports from Rhodesia. Kaunda is aware that a total trade boycott might provoke Salisbury to countermeasures which would cripple the Zambian copper industry.]

[US officials in Salisbury report that the situation is completely quiet in Rhodesia and they discount press reports of violence. Prime Minister Smith, in a message to tribal leaders, has warned that the police and army are prepared to deal with anyone who attempts to disturb public order. There have been reports of bitterness and anti-independence sentiment among senior civil servants, army officers, and businessmen, particularly those with strong British connections, but there is no indication that opposition to Smith has assumed significant proportions.]

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Congo: The parliamentary defeat of the Kimba government yesterday is a strong political boost for ex-Premier Tshombé.

The vote was primarily a test of strength between Tshombé and the forces of President Kasavubu and Interior Minister Nendaka in the first skirmish of next spring's presidential campaign. Previous reports had indicated that Kimba's parliamentary strength was dropping and that Tshombé's--although he was out of office--was increasing.

Kasavubu now appears to have two choices of action. He may continue to name new governments until he gets one acceptable to Parliament or he may name a new government while stalling on seeking approval for it until the end of the parliamentary session on 6 December. Although there will be parliamentary pressure to name a new formateur friendly to Tshombé, it is almost certain that Kasavubu will not rename Tshombé himself, and that even if he did, Tshombé--with his eye on the presidency--would not now accept.

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India: Latest estimates on the fall crop point to a critical food shortage which could bring near-famine to many parts of India during the coming year.

Adverse weather conditions have seriously reduced fall harvest yields. The US Embassy in New Delhi reports preliminary indications that the output of food-grains in the current harvest may be more than 6 million tons below last autumn's 59.8 million tons. A good spring harvest could improve prospects somewhat, but rainfall thus far has been insufficient for optimum rice planting.

Shortages next year are likely to be widespread, with some of the states which usually grow surpluses falling short of self-sufficiency. Harbor facilities are already hard pressed to offload the normal annual imports of 6-7 million tons of grain.

The Shastri government is considering emergency measures to boost food output, but these are likely to have little effect in the coming year. Rationing will be imposed early next year in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants. However, administrative resources are limited, relations between New Delhi and some state governments are strained, and there are already signs that local enforcement will be difficult.

Indian security forces are probably capable of controlling any public disorders accompanying a famine.

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